Book Reviews.

LES VOIES CENTRALES DE LA SENSIBILITÉ GÉNÉRALE, ÉDOUARD LONG. G. Steinheil, Paris, 1899.

This thesis is published from the laboratory of Dr. Dejerine at the Salpêtrière, and represents largely the views held by this distinguished French neurologist. The subject which Dr. Long has chosen is not an easy one, and even after the thorough treatment it has received at his hands, we must ackowledge that much remains to be discovered. Dr. Long divides his book into two parts; the first contains a careful review of the literature, the opinions of the most distinguished investigators in regard to the sensory tracts, and the writer's own views; the second contains the reports of cases studied clinically and microscopically by the author. It would be a difficult and unnecessary task to review the statements abstracted from the literature, and it is more suitable to refer to some of Dr. Long's own conclusions.

Dr. Long does not think that the decussation of sensory fibers within the spinal cord has been fully established by physiological and pathological investigations; of course, he is not referring to the well recognized decussation of the posterior column fibers in the medulla oblongata. The symptom-complex of Brown-Séquard exists, but the anatomical explanation of a decussation of sensory fibers is hypothetical.

The theory of the individuality of tactile, painful, thermic and muscular sensations, and of the multiplicity of the organs of perception and transmission, is not in harmony with the results of physiological and anatomical study. The different impressions called sensory are created by peripheral excitation more or less intense.

Dr. Long believes that the median fillet terminates in the lower and external part of the thalamus, and does not pass directly to the cerebral cortex. If it did pass uninterruptedly to the cortex, it would undergo a retrograde degeneration almost as great from extensive cortical lesions as from thalamic, and this is not the case. Cortical lesions cause only a slight diminution in the size of the fillet, explicable by the degeneration of its accessory fibers. Cortical lesions, congenital or acquired very early, cause asymmetry of the fillet, and this asymmetry results from simple atrophy or arrest of development. Aberrant fibers unite with the fillet, and some descend into the medulla oblongata, but do not take part in the sensory decussation, and enter the pyramids; others terminate in the upper part of the pons. These accessory fibers are not the central tracts of sensory cranial nerves, nor is their only function the innervation of the nuclei of motor nerves. Their termination is unknown.

Dr. Long follows the teaching of Dr. Dejerine very closely. The thalamus, he tells us, is in connection with the entire cerebral cortex by means of the cortico-thalamic and the thalamo-cortical fibers, *i. e.*, by fibers passing from the cortex to the thalamus and *vice versa*. The views of Flechsig are not accepted.

No distinct sensory tract exists in the posterior segment of the internal capsule, but on the contrary, the sensory fibers are mingled with the motor in the genu and the posterior limb of the internal capsule. Dejerine, some years ago, disputed the correctness of the views held in regard to Charcot's "carrefour sensitif." Long reports two cases in support of his statements; in these cases disturbance of sensation was not noticed. In the first the posterior segment of the inner capsule was destroyed and the thalamus was intact; in the second the lesion involved only a part of the posterior segment of the internal capsule, and only the anterior and internal nuclei of the thalamus, and not the external nucleus. Persistent hemianesthesia is more common when the thalamus is destroyed than in lesions of other parts of the cerebral hemisphere. The anesthesia from a cortical lesion is never complete, and diminishes in intensity after a time. Motility, general sensation and muscular sense have the same cortical localization.

The results of forty-one clinical observations and of thirteen clinical and pathological studies form a fitting termination to this valuable book. The name of Long may worthily be placed by the side of those of Vialet, Sottas, Mirallié and Thomas, who, under the inspiration of Dejerine, have made most valuable contributions to neurological literature.

SPILLER.

A MANUAL OF MODERN SURGERY, GENERAL AND OPERATIVE, by John Chalmers DaCosta, M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Surgeon to the Philadelphia Hospital, etc. With 386 illustrations. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut street, 1898.

It is with pleasure that we note the appearance of a second edition of this most estimable manual. No other work on surgery we are acquainted with seems so well adapted to fill the requirements of that debatable ground which lies between the comprehensiveness of the full-fledged text-book or system and the conciseness of the quiz compend. Adequate descriptions are given of all the important surgical conditions with their treatment, separate sections being devoted to the operative technique, and a summary of the instruments needed. In this edition the advances of surgical knowledge have been fully recognized, among others, sections having been added on the Surgery of the Liver and Gall-Bladder, the Spleen, the Pancreas, the Female Breast, Wounds inflicted by Modern Projectiles, Electrical Injuries, and the Use of the Röntgen Rays. The following operations have been described: Resection of the Gasserian Ganglion, Methods of Gastrotomy, Schede's Thoracoplasty, Use of the Murphy Button, Various New Methods of Enterorrhaphy, Bodine's Method of Colostomy, Prevention of Hemorrhage in Hip-joint Amputation by Macewen's Method of Aortic Compression; Edmund Owen's Operation for Harelip, Senn's Method of Resection of the Shoulder-joint, etc.

The character of the illustrations and presswork is excellent, and the work is one to be heartily commended to all surgical students.

VOGEL.

LEITFADEN DER ELECTRODIAGNOSTIK UND ELECTROTHERAPIE. Für Praktiker und Sturierende von Dr. Toby Cohn, Berlin. Mit Einem Vorwort von Prof. Dr. E. Mendel. S. Karger, Berlin, 1899.

It is characteristic, we believe, of modern therapeutics to utilize more and more of physical methods for the treatment of disease. The influences of heat, light, massage, and electricity have been more carefully studied of late than ever before, and special therapeutic journals